

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 DRC-01

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R 141654Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8719

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03260

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK, FR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL ON EC
"RENEGOTIATION"

1. ACCORDING TO FRANCOIS BUJON (COUNSELOR, FRENCH
EMBASSY), THE FRG HAS APPROACHED THE FRENCH EMBASSY
IN BONN TO SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS ON HOW THE REST OF THE
COMMUNITY SHOULD REACT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S
INTENTION TO RENEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF THE EC ACCESSION
TREATY. ACCORDING TO BULON, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT
REPLIED THAT IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH A DISCUS-
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SION AT THIS TIME.

2. THE FRENCH, BUJON SAID, BELIEVE THAT THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD "PLAY IT COOL" AND WAIT UNTIL THE BRITISH SAY WHAT THEY MEAN BY RENEGOTIATION. HE EXPECTS THAT THE BRITISH ARE MORE LIKELY TO DO THIS AT THE APRIL 1-2 COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHEN FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN GOES TO LAMBOURNE, THAN AT THE MARCH 21 COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS.

3. IN THE COURSE OF SOME PERSONAL SPECULATION ABOUT HOW THE TERMS OF ENTRY COULD BE RENEGOTIATED, BUJON INDICATED THAT WHILE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE OVER AGRICULTURAL PRICE LEVELS, FRANCE WILL INSIST THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNITY PREFERENCE FOR AGRICULTURAL GOODS MUST REMAIN INTACT. WITH REGARD TO THE COMMUNITY BUDGET, HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF COMMUNITY EXPENDITURES (BY ADDING REGIONAL POLICY PROGRAMS, FOR EXAMPLE) THAN TO REVISE THE TERMS OF THE ACCESSION TREATY.

4. BUJON MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE FRENCH WILL TAKE THE LINE THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD GET ALONG ALL RIGHT WITHOUT THE UK, BUT THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE CALAMITOUS FOR BRITAIN.

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Message Attributes

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